

THE  
MIRACULOUS RECOVERY  
OF  
A Dumb Man

At LAMBETH:

Francis Culham

A brief and true Relation of an extraordinary  
Distemper which, at *Christmas* 1671, seized upon Mr.  
*Francis Culham* of *South-Lambeth* in the County of  
*Surrey*, Chyrurgeon, and took away his Understanding  
and Speech; and so continued for the space of Four  
years and Four months. With his wonderful Restau-  
ration on *Fryday* the 12 of *May*, 1676, by the immedi-  
ate hand of God.

With the manner of his being taken in this kind; the sad  
Condition he continued in all that time; and the Heavenly Ex-  
pressions that came from him when first he obtained the use of his  
Tongue, to the amazement of several Ministers and others there  
present: whose Names are here inserted, with the names of se-  
veral other persons of Credit, that do attest the truth of this fol-  
lowing Narration, viz.

<i>Ed. Parr</i> , D. D. of <i>Camer-</i>	{	<i>Elias Ashmole</i> ;
<i>wel</i> ,		<i>Andrew Needham</i> , Curate
<i>Ho. Gale</i> , D.D.		of <i>Lambeth</i> ,
<i>William Perry</i> , M.A.		<i>Philip Foster</i> ,
<i>W. Paget</i> , M.D. of <i>London</i> ,		<i>Benjamin Henshaw</i> .

Licensed, May 31. 1676. Roger L'Estrange.

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# A Dumb Man

ALLAN BRYAN

It was a dark, stormy night, and the rain was falling fast. A man, who was known to all as 'Dumb', was walking alone on a lonely street. He was wearing a long, dark coat, and his face was pale and haggard. He was looking down at the ground, and his steps were heavy and slow. He was thinking of the many troubles that were weighing on his mind, and he was feeling very lonely and sad.

As he walked, he heard a low, muffled sound behind him. He turned round, and saw a man in a dark coat and hat, who was looking at him with a steady gaze. The man in the dark coat did not say a word, but he seemed to be following him. 'Dumb' felt a little nervous, but he did not stop. He walked on, and the man in the dark coat followed him for some time. Finally, 'Dumb' turned round and saw that the man was still there. He felt a little more nervous, but he did not stop. He walked on, and the man in the dark coat followed him for some time. Finally, 'Dumb' turned round and saw that the man was still there.

At last, 'Dumb' reached his home. He unlocked the door, and went in. He was very tired, and he went straight to bed. He was thinking of the man in the dark coat, and he was feeling very nervous. He was wondering what the man was doing, and he was feeling a little bit scared. He was thinking of the many troubles that were weighing on his mind, and he was feeling very lonely and sad.

THE END

Printed by J. W. B. at the Press of the

The Miraculous Recovery of

# A Dumb man

At *LAMBETH*.

**M**R. *Francis Culham*, the Subject of this ensuing Discourse, was born at *New-Buckenham* in the County of *Norfolk*, on *Christmas-day*, 1631; and having been bred a *Chirurgion*, hath exercised his Faculty as well in several *Sea-voyages*, as also at Land, with great care, honesty, and good success; some of his Cures, being eminent, have gained him no small Credit and Reputation. He now dwells at the *White-lion* in *South-Lambeth* in the County of *Surrey*.

In the Month of *August* 1671, he unhappily fell backward, and about *Michaelmas* ensuing had another fall; both which somewhat confused the hinder part of his head: and though he observed nothing of danger immediately to follow thereupon, yet it is supposed they wrought, by degrees, some effect upon his Brain, by concussion, or flowing in of Humours upon the weakned parts; and some time after was observed to be melancholy disposed.

Within three or four days after *Christmas* day following, he began to complain of an alteration in his Health; and about two days after, became stupified

in his Brain, which gradually spread over his body : to this a weakness in his Limbs succeeded, insomuch as he was forced to take his Bed ; and immediately grew not onely speechless, but lost the use of his Reason.

The principal of those Circumstances which attended these his sad Distempers, during their continuance, were these : At first he lay a moneth without eating any food, or taking any other sustenance, except a small quantity of drink, with Syrup of Violets, sometimes once a day, which other days he would intermit : nevertheless, in all that time he went not to Stool.

At the expiration of this Month, he eat a good Meal ; and so did eat daily for some short time ; and after fasted a whole week, neither eating nor drinking any thing : then receving some sustenance, for a few days, he fasted another week compleat.

These times of long Fasting being over, he afterwards did eat but once in three days ; but then it was incredible, both in respect of the Quantity and Manner : for he would most greedily devour a whole Joynt of meat at a Meal, and that in a very short time. This he usually tore in pieces after an extraordinary ravenous sort, and drank therewith not less than six or seven quarts of strong drink ; which he always smelt to, before he would taste ; and refused to drink, unless out of a Stone-bottle.

But the Distemper he seem'd to lie under after such extravagant Eating, was exceeding strange and remarkable : for he made a dreadful and horrid noise, but inarticulate, and lay roaring and howling most  
part

part of the day after, (as sometimes he did before he did eat) seeming to covet more Meat, even then, when he had fed most plentifully.

In this sad and deplorable condition he continued, keeping his Bed continually, and refusing to take any internal Medicine; nor did he know either Wife or Children, Friends or Visitants, or seemed to take notice of any other thing.

He used several sorts of Tones and Cries, all lamentable enough; and lay (for the first year) with his eyes continually open. He would sometimes attempt to bite those that came neer him. In this time he was once let blood, and once Fluxed.

About a month before his Recovery, he was twice let blood; but how far that might signifie any thing is uncertain, seeing no effect appeared till the day of his Restauration, which was the 12 of this instant May 1676. onely for two days before, he now and then wept, seeming to have some sensible apprehension of his Wife and Children, by holding them fast by the hand, when they stood near him; though since his Recovery he remembers it not.

But that 12 day of May, about 10 a clock in the morning, by the miraculous power and mercy of God, his Understanding began to return; whereupon he made Signes, (by moving his hand in a Writing posture) for Pen, Ink and Paper; which being brought him, he wrote as followeth.

*Lord grant a Power from thy divine Nature  
I thought I saw the glorious appear unto me.  
The Prayers of all good people I desire.  
I desire heavenly water, that I thirst no more.*

*It is the light I desire from the most High.  
As the Son doth appear in me, I hope a better work  
will be perfected in me.*

*It is heavenly Bread I desire, that I hunger  
more, and then I shall be more beautified.*

His wife then offering him a glass of Wine, he refused it, and wrote again thus:

*It is Prayers I first desire.*

Hereupon the Minister of the Parish was sent for to pray by him; who, though he was not then at home, yet not long after bestowed a visit on him.

After he had sat up a while, Dr. Gale Master of *Pauls* School, with Mr. Will. Perry another Minister and two friends more, accidentally passed by his house; who being intreated to come in and pray with him, did very readily consent. The Dr. being desirous fully and clearly to understand the condition of the man, did enquire of several of the neighbours then present, how long he had been in this affliction; how he had been handled; what Means had been used; as also, how he had lived before he fell into this sad estate: then having desired the Person to endeavour to speak, if possibly he could; and finding no answer, but an abundance of tears, accompanied with great trembling in all his body, and blackness in his lips, (his wife also at the Drs request begged of him to speak) he then with the company present went to Prayers, reading the Office of the Church for the *situation of the Sick*. Mr. Culham (as it was observed) did manifest a great Devotion, applying to him several passages in the Office, especially in the Absolution; all the while pouring out tears, and smiting

his brest. And when these words were pronounced, *Glory be to the Father, to the Son, and to the holy Ghost*, Mr. Culham with a loud voice answered, *Glory be to God on high. Then he wrought a great work. Now Power is given from the most High.* And proceeded on with several other Scripture expressions, full of thankfulness to God for so signal a Mercy towards him; to the no less Joy than Astonishment of all there attending. After this he call'd for a morsel of bread, though in all his distemper he had never eaten any bread. Then a little Sack being offered to him, he refused to drink it, saying it was too strong for him. His younger son being brought before him, he wondered to finde him grown out of his knowledge; then gave him his Blessing, and commanded him to be dutiful to his Mother. These two Ministers came that night again to him, and found him much recovered; and since also have frequently visited him; at which he always much rejoyceth. Immediately upon his speaking, he perfectly knew his neighbours and former acquaintance, who came to see him in great numbers.

He enquired whether Dr. Parr Minister of *Cambrwel* were yet alive; declaring he had heretofore received much good and comfort from his Preaching; and therefore desired he might be sent for to pray by him: who being acquainted with his request, very willingly performed that office, to his great satisfaction and consolation.

Upon several discourses with him since, he doth make it appear that he perfectly remembers the passages of former times; and all things before his distemper.



temper fell upon him, are fresh in his memory: he  
 cannot call to minde any thing that pass'd during the  
 time it held him; but that he was there onely  
 remains with him, that he was in such a tedious  
 troublesome Dream, and that he was in such a  
 if he had been bound, and that he was in such a  
 and suchlike frightful and terrible things.

The second day after his recovery, he was able  
 to walk about his Chamber, leaning on another  
 shoulder; the third day, with a Staff onely: and  
 now he is greatly increased in strength, feeds moder-  
 rately, sleeps well, and his Intellects and Faculties are  
 become exceeding clear and strong.

His wife behaved herself towards him all the  
 while he lay under this sickness, with great care  
 and affection; and he recovered his health and industri-  
 ous course of life, supported his wife and children.

The truth of all which is attested by his Wife, and  
 her Relations, and neighbours and others upon  
 this extraordinary occasion visiting him.



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